

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MYONGDONG TRIAL - FIFTEENTH SESSION

REF: SEOUL 6135

SUMMARY: FIFTEENTH SESSION OF MYONGDONG TRIAL TO HEAR
DEFENSE SUMMARY FOR YUN PO-SUN, CHUNG IL-HYONG AND
HAM SOK-HON WAS BRIEF. SESSION WAS SPARSELY ATTENDED.
JUDGE SET SENTENCING FOR THREE DEFENDANTS FOR AUGUST 28 -
THE SAME DATE HE HAD GIVEN FOR SENTENCING THE OTHER
FIFTEEN MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT,
DEFENDANTS FILED MOTION FOR A NEW PANEL OF JUDGES WITH
SEOUL APPELLATE COURT.

1. FIFTEENTH SESSION OF MYONGDONG AFFAIR TRIAL WHICH
TOOK PLACE ON AUGUST 11 REQUIRED ONLY ONE HOUR TO RUN ITS
COURSE. DEFENSE ATTORNEYS FOR YUN PO-SUN, CHUNG IL-HYONG
AND HAM SOK-HON FILED WRITTEN BRIEF OF DEFENSE. ORALLY,
THEY ASKED COURT TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THAT
THEIR CLIENTS HAD HAD DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC CAREERS AND
THAT THEY POSED NO DANGER TO THE STATE.

2. EACH DEFENDANT MADE BRIEF PERSONAL STATEMENT.
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YUN PO-SUN PROTESTED THE HASTEROF THE COURT. HE SAID

THE DEFENDANTS WERE NOT AT ALL GUILTY OF THE CHARGES. HE DESCRIBED THE EMERGENCY MEASURES AS BAD LAWS WHICH MUST BE LIFTED. HE WOULD CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE TO CLEAR HIS NAME OF THE FALSE ACCUSATIONS LEVELED AT HIM BY THE STATE.

3. CHUNG IL-HYONG SAID THE DEFENDANTS MADE THE DECLARATION TO COUNTER PERNICIOUS TENDENCIES TOWARD THE LIMITATION OF DEMOCRACY. THE MOTIVE WAS TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE COUNTRY. INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION IS WATCHING THIS TRIAL CAREFULLY AS EVIDENCED BY A LETTER OF 119 US CONGRESSMEN TO PRESIDENT FORD ON THEIR CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA. HE ADVISED THE JUDGES THAT THEIR VERDICT WOULD HAVE IMPACT ON THE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF THE ROKG.

4. HAM SOK-HON SUGGESTED THAT EM-9 WAS PROBABLY DESIGNED TO LIMIT SUCH THINGS AS STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE ROKG AND NOT LEGITIMATE PEACEFUL PROTEST SUCH AS THAT PERFORMED BY THE DEFENDANTS. THE OPPOSITION MUST HAVE VOICE. DEFENDANTS MOTIVATED BY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TO DEFEND SUCH A BASIC RIGHT. IF WE ARE TO BE DECLARED GUILTY, I MUST POINT OUT THAT IT WAS CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DECLARATION. KIM TAE-CHUNG SHOULD BE GIVEN ESPECIALLY LENIENT TREATMENT SINCE HE WAS ONCE A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. ACCORDING TO HAM, THE TRIAL REVEALED A CERTAIN PREJUDICE AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, BUT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES HAVE MADE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO KOREA IN THE PAST AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO IN THE FUTURE.

5. JUDGE STATED THE PANEL WOULD PASS SENTENCE ON THE THREE DEFENDANTS ON AUGUST 28. THAT IS THE SAME DAY SCHEDULED FOR THE COURT TO SENTENCE THE OTHER FIFTEEN MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS.

6. THIS SESSION OF THE TRIAL ATTRACTED RELATIVELY LESS PUBLIC INTEREST. SPECTATORS OCCUPIED ONLY ONE THIRD OF THE SEATS AVAILABLE WHEREAS MOST OTHER SESSIONS WERE FILLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO CAPACITY.

7. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, ALL EIGHTEEN DEFENDANTS PERSONALLY FILED A MOTION WITH THE SEOUL CRIMINAL APPELLATE COURT REQUESTING THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PANEL OF JUDGES TO HEAR THE TRIAL SINCE THEY ALLEGE THAT THE CURRENT PANEL HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF PREJUDICE IN FAVOR OF THE

PROSECUTION. THIS MOTION HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TURNED
DOWN BY THE SEOUL DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURT ON AUGUST 5.

8. COURTROOM INTERACTION AMONG DEFENDANTS,
JUDGES AND PROSECUTION IS NOW OVER. APPEALS WILL
BE CONSIDERED QUIETLY BY VARIOUS COURTS IN PRIVACY
OF THEIR CHAMBERS. PUBLIC ATTENTION IS NOT LIKELY
TO BE ATTRACTED TO THIS CASE UNTIL THE DATE OF
SENTENCING.
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